

Black River Environmental Health Services

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Public Health 
Seattle & King County

September 18, 2009

To: Quartermaster Harbor Marine Recovery Area Property Owners

From: Larry Fay, Community Environmental Health Section Manager

RE: Quartermaster Marine Recovery Area Property Owner Meetings:

Governors Lane Section A and B – Thursday October 1, 2009 from 10:00 to 4:00

Shawnee-Magnolia Beach - Saturday October 10, 2009 from 10:00 to 4:00

Harbor Heights Section A - Thursday October 15, 2009 from 10:00 to 4:00

Harbor Heights Section B, Tahlequah, 125th PL SW - Saturday October 24, 2009 10:00 to 4:00

Public Health Seattle & King County, in accordance with State laws and regulations, has designated Marine Recovery Areas (MRA) in the Quartermaster Harbor and East Passage areas of Vashon and Maury Islands. Your property is located within the MRA designated on the west side of Quartermaster Harbor. Maps of the MRA and information about the MRA designation are available on the website at

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/wastewater/mra.aspx>

Public Health - Seattle & King County representatives will be contacting owners at their property in the Quartermaster Harbor neighborhoods on the dates and times noted above. Our goal is to provide property owners with an overview of the objectives behind the MRA designation and information on specific steps you can take to evaluate your On-Site Sewage system or make repairs if necessary. This will be an opportunity for you to learn more about the MRA designation and for us to learn about the problems you may be facing when evaluating, upgrading or replacing older septic systems. In particular we will be interested to know what types of assistance, including state supported low interest loans, are needed to give MRA property owners incentives to inspect and if necessary repair their sewage system.

We are looking forward to meeting with property owners, residents and other interested parties to provide assistance in responding to the MRA designation. We hope you can meet with us on the date scheduled for your neighborhood. If you would like to contact us to schedule a specific time to meet with you or to request that we not contact you at your property, please call Larry Stockton at (206) 296-1910 or email Laurence.stockton@kingcounty.gov

Attachment:

Marine Recovery Area Background

Marine Recovery Area Background

As you may be aware from previous mailings, your property has been included in the Marine Recovery Area (MRA). In 2008 the Public Health Seattle & King County Board of Health adopted an On-Site Septic System Management Plan designating the MRA for certain portions of Vashon-Maury Island that are within or adjoining “prohibited” or “unclassified” shellfish harvest areas. Property owners within the MRA need to inspect, and repair or replace their On-Site Sewage (OSS) system, if needed, by July 1, 2012, then annually inspect OSS function.

To address the MRA designation, property owners should obtain a professional inspection of their OSS to document the system type, location, function and prepare an as-built plan of the system if one does not already exist. If the professional inspection determines that the OSS is not functioning, owners should work with a licensed OSS designer to evaluate options to repair, replace, or install an alternate method of treating their wastewater.

Marine Recovery Area Objectives

In the Quartermaster Harbor MRA area Public Health Seattle & King County has been working since 2005 with approximately 175 property owners to complete an OSS inventory and identify systems that need repair or replacement. Where the inventory has been completed the focus is to work with property owners, OSS designers and OSS installers to repair or replace the failing OSS. The short term goal is to correct enough of the failing OSS to entirely or partially lift shellfish harvest restrictions in the area.

In the East Passage MRA area, Public Health Seattle & King County will work with approximately 115 property owners to educate them about the MRA project, septic problems and potential solutions. The short term goal is to complete an inventory of OSS for each of the five sub-areas in the East Passage MRA.

Longer term, the goals for implementation of the MRA include:

- Making significant progress on repair or replacement of failing OSS in both the Quartermaster Harbor and East Passage areas and,
- Evaluation of existing and new data to identify other potential MRA's to reduce the number of failing OSS and improve water quality.

Web Resources

Public Health Seattle-King County has assembled a variety of resources to assist MRA owners at our web site at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs.aspx> including:

- **King County Onsite System Management Plan**
- **MRA maps showing individual parcels and the status of the OSS for each parcel**
- **OSS As-Built Plans and Inspection Records**
- **OSS Inspection Report Form for MRA and Time of Sale**
- **Technical Assistance**
- **Frequently Asked Questions**
- **State Approved On-Site Treatment Systems and Products**
- **Quartermaster Harbor Community System Wastewater Treatment Options Report**
- **Marine Recovery Area Background Information**
- **MRA press releases and news articles**
- **Partners seeking solutions to OSS problems on VMI**